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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/717,660

Group Art Unit: 3753

Filing Date: November 21, 2003

Examiner: G. Walton

Title: TWO-WAY VALVE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form references which have been cited in a foreign counterpart application pending before the French Patent Office. A copy of the French Patent Office communication (not translated), dated March 23, 2004, is enclosed.

The indication that the references have been cited in a counterpart foreign application satisfies the requirement for a statement of relevance of the citations, as noted in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Therefore, consideration of the references is proper and is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

This information is being submitted before issuance of the First Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fees are due. Notwithstanding, should any other fees be considered due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, such fees may be charged to Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Guss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul A. Guss
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Substitute form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/717,660
Filing Date	November 21, 2003
First Named Inventor	Yoshihiro FUKANO
Art Unit	3753
Examiner Name	G. Walton
Attorney Docket Number	CS-32-031121

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *-Number ⁴ *-Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		DE-29507638-U1	08-17-1995			
		DE-4244020-A1	07-07-1994			
		EP-1138989-A2	10-04-2001			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.